

LOCAL I-S NEWS

for department store workers

Vol. 5, No. 13

FEBRUARY 15, 1954

264

Macy Gets Union Wage-Hour Demands At First Meeting



Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt honored Local I-S for more than five years of devoted support to the March of Dimes. Left to Right are Vice Pres. Hoffstein, Mrs. Roosevelt, Pres. Kovenetsky and Vice Pres. Gurian, who received a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Union for its outstanding work—past and present.

Union Wins Added Pay For Commission Workers After Arguing Four Months

More than four months of discussion and argument came to an end when Macy's finally agreed to pay \$1.75 a week retroactively and in the future to all workers who were promoted from straight salary or salary plus commission jobs to straight commission jobs.

The \$1.75 general wage increase was won last April and was, at that time, retroactive to February 1st, 1953. Late in September Administrator Tony Pucca discovered that workers being promoted to straight commission jobs were being stripped of their \$1.75.

Weeks stretched into months as he argued his case at every step in the grievance machinery. Having finally exhausted every possibility

open to him, he turned the problem over to Vice President Phil Hoffstein.

The Union's Vice President took the problem to the company's Vice President in charge of Labor Relations, who, after looking into the matter conceded that the Union

was right and Macy's wrong.

Hoffstein said, "If any worker in the store has been promoted to a straight commission job since last April he should get in touch with the Union at once. Only in this way can we fully protect each such person's pay envelope."

Macy on Warning After "Downgrading" Attempt

Local I-S gave Macy's notice of trouble a-plenty ahead if the company again tries to downgrade workers.

This warning was given as the Union successfully fought to win a higher rate of pay for Drug Order Filler Mildred Sturrup who spent part of her working day performing the duties of higher rated "Forward Stockmen."

Macy's argued that Mildred was not entitled to the higher pay, because the "Forward Stockmen's" job itself was "over-rated."

Administrator Bill Roschak contested the right of the company to use such "backdoor tactics in order to lower the Stockmens' rate of pay." He also pointed to the fact that the contract provided the rates for all jobs and that the

company did not have the right to unilaterally tamper with them.

Macy's finally agreed to pay Mildred at the higher rate for the nine weeks she had been doing the work. But the company's Labor Relations office would only admit that their sneak attack on the wage structure was "ill-timed", since it "looked like flexibility instead of downgrading."

The company's answer still left the door open to similar attempts at violating the contract in the future.

Bill Roschak said, "We warned Macy's that we would fight them any time they tried such a move again. But such cases must be called to the attention of the Union as soon as they happen, otherwise Macy's will get away with turning the wage structure upside down!"

FREE EXPERT TAX AID

at the

UNION OFFICE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

From 3:30 p.m.

TAX FORMS
Will Be Available

Be sure to Bring Your
Withholding Statement

Local 1-S 1954 negotiations got under way on February 10th when the Union's fifteen-member Negotiating Committee, headed by President Sam Kovenetsky and Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and George Gurian submitted seven major demands.

Macy Frigid To 1-S Demands For Saturday Onlies

Continuing negotiations for a wage increase, respect for seniority and other benefits for 800 Saturday onlies and fractionals has failed to produce any progress, according to President Sam Kovenetsky.

Negotiations for this newest group of Union members are being conducted by President Kovenetsky and Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and George Gurian and have been going on for more than a month.

In a special statement to the entire Local 1-S membership they said:

"It should come as no surprise to anyone that Macy's has been showing its usual arrogance and contempt for the just demands of its workers.

"At this time it is the Saturday only and fractional who is feeling the brunt of the company's penny pinching policy. There can be no doubt, however, that Macy's will try to bring the same policy into the negotiations now beginning for all our full and part time members.

"Although this is only a reopening of our agreement it will be necessary for us to demonstrate our great strength and determination if we are to win the substantial improvements we have demanded.

"Macy's has always told us that the granting of a wage increase and other benefits would result in the closing of their doors. Nothing could be farther from the truth! In fact, in its last financial report the company showed a profit increase of 74.9% over the year before!

As negotiations progress, you will be advised as to the best way you can make your voice heard. It is urgent that you be ready to do your part. It's your job, your Union and your welfare that is being fought for. DO YOUR SHARE!

Button, Button

Button, button—get YOUR Union button!

Every member of Local 1-S will want to proudly display his or her new Union pin. The neat blue and gold lapel pins cost only 50 cents and are on sale at the Union office.

Get yours TODAY!



Every week-day evening,
W-A-B-C
7:00 P.M.
770 on your dial.

Sponsored by Congress of Industrial Organizations



Fight or Fall! YOU Have a Stake in the Battle Against Democratic America's Latest Menace — "McCarthyism"

By CEIL CURRY, JEROME HARTE and DICK PASTOR

With some of the nation's most responsible statesmen sounding warnings of the dangers of McCarthyism—with the leaders of our labor movement underscoring the menace—with the clergy proclaiming the new threat to freedom of religion—and with a rising tide of economic and social reprisals against anti-mccarthy "heretics" in the land, a careful examination of "mccarthyism" is in order.

"McCarthyism" is not the creature of Senator Joseph McCarthy alone. More accurately, it is a composite, based on legislation (Smith Act and McCarran Act), legislative investigation (un-American Activities Committee—McCarthy, Velde, Jenner, Butler, etc.) and scare headlines in the daily newspapers.

The immediate aim of this combination is to stifle all opposition to the destruction of the social and economic gains won by the working people of the country during the friendly, pro-labor administrations of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Its second aim is to frighten the people into silence and disarm them in the fight for additional economic, social and political gains.

Its third purpose is to create the kind of atmosphere in which people will not resist the enactment of laws harmful to them and their own best interests.

The stated aim of maccarthyism is to rid the country of the menace of "communism." The rare man in the street who approves of maccarthyism does so, in the main, because he believes it "gets results."

But what are those "results"—and what do they mean to the average person—the average member of Local 1-S or of any other union?

Communist Front!

First, let's see what the laws already on the books could come to mean to us. The McCarran Act goes to great lengths to define a "communist" or "communist front" organization. It says that a "front" organization is any group which in whole or in part has a program which parallels that of the Communist Party. What could that mean to YOU if the legality of the Act is upheld by the courts where it is now being tested?

Local 1-S and its members favor a reduction in transit fares, more low and middle income public housing, an end to discrimination, more schools, higher pay, shorter hours, etc. Local 1-S opposed the enactment of such repressive legislation as the McCarran Act itself, as well as the Taft-Hartley Act and the Smith Act. On the record the Communist Party also supports and opposes the same things!

With even these few points in common Local 1-S could be branded a "communist front" within the meaning of the law. The unacceptable alternative would be for us to take a position contrary to our own individual best interests just for the sake of being clearly anti-communist.

But if we continue to fight for the things we need and believe in—and if we are branded as a "communist front" organization—what then?

The first thing we would be forced to do would be to register with the Attorney General's office as a "front" organization. Our newspaper would have to be stamped as propaganda from a communist front organization and the names of our members would have to be given to the Attorney General—and that means YOU!

Of course, what the law hopes to do is to scare YOU so stiff that you will give up fighting for fear of being labelled "red." If you don't scare easily the law has a built-in club with which they might try to beat you into submission.

The law says that once your organization has been branded, and your name is put on the Attorney General's list, you are considered a member of a "subversive" organi-

zation. The next, and most recently proposed step, is contained in the Butler Bill. This Bill before Congress is very simple. It says that if *anyone*, in or out of the union, (including management) files a complaint charging that either an officer, an employee, or an active member of the union is a communist, or has knowingly or unknowingly associated with communists, the Union's collective bargaining rights are temporarily suspended. A hearing is supposed to be held (at some indefinite later date), and if the complaint is upheld the union permanently loses its rights to bargain for its members.

Just imagine the field day the union-haters could have as a union

Union Busting

you participate in its political action program.

Perhaps you protested the embargo on the sale of arms to the duly elected Republican government of Spain back in 1937 when Franco, backed by Hitler and Mussolini, was staging his civil war putsch. Maybe you didn't.

Perhaps you once signed a nominating petition so that a communist candidate could appear on the ballot. But maybe you didn't. So far as you are concerned you have nothing to fear and nothing to hide.

So you answer the committee's questions. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party? No. Are you now or have you ever been a member of a communist front organization? No. Do you know any communists? If so, who are they? Name names! You don't want to be an informer? The committee will cite you for contempt of Congress! You don't know any? What about so-and-so? You know him, and the committee's records claim he is a communist. The committee will cite you for perjury!

Danger Ahead

But now just suppose that you have appeared, and answered questions without becoming an informer and without being charged with either contempt or perjury. You go home, and you're mighty glad it's all over. One month, six months or a year later your organization might be branded "subversive" under the McCarran Act. You lied to the committee. You said you didn't belong to any subversive organization, but here's the name of your union on the Attorney General's list. Now you can be indicted for perjury—and they've got you dead to rights, even though you were telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth when you testified!

On the other hand, if you recognize what the committee is gunning for, and disapprove of it, you can refuse to answer their questions. But what happens then?

The only basis on which you can refuse, says the United States Supreme Court, is that to answer would be to incriminate yourself—and the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution protects you against self-incrimination. But Mr. McCarthy has twisted the Constitution so that a refusal is supposed to be taken as a silent plea of "guilty." Although the Fifth Amendment was designed to protect the innocent as well as the guilty against prosecution based on self-given testimony, it is now distorted to make everyone using it appear guilty.

But regardless, you say, you know your rights and you're going to use them. You refuse to answer! Tomorrow's paper will almost certainly contain an announcement by the committee's chairman saying that you must be a communist because you refused to say that you weren't. This will happen even though you know that you didn't answer that question only because if you had answered that one you would have had to answer all of them. Under the law you cannot pick and choose—it's all or nothing!

And now the picture comes into focus! Either you join hands with the witchhunters and help them destroy your rights—or you be-

come one of the hunted, whose survival depends on fighting back as part of the growing anti-mccarthy, pro-democratic, liberal movement.

Political Murder, Inc.

McCarthyism spreads its net far. It attacks a past president of the United States for being "soft" on communism. By doing this it hopes to discourage you from defending your liberties.

It attacks the Protestant Church as a haven for communists. By doing this it hopes to silence the voice of that church which has been outspoken in its opposition to the maccarthyite destruction of civil rights.

It attacks two prominent, but dead, leaders of the Jewish faith. By doing this it seeks to breathe new life into the Hitlerite lie that all Jews are communists.

It attacks socialist labor leaders because they dare to be socialists and labor leaders.

It produces a blacklist in the entertainment industry and in other fields based on rumor and hysteria.

It threatens freedom of the press by attacking newspaper editors in the hope of silencing their criticism. McCarthyism operates on the theory that if you can't read the criticism perhaps you will believe all that they say.

The aim is to put the people in a deep freeze. To get us out of politics. To stop us from fighting for the things we need and to end our opposition to laws favoring the privileged few. A measure of their success is to be seen in the fact that the Velde Committee and the courts were used against the Hearn workers in their recent strike when department store magnate Greenfield started screaming for help. The result—regardless of personal opinion concerning Greenfield's name-calling—was that the strike was lost and the workers were the losers.

Silence is NOT Golden!

McCarthyism seeks to silence millions who see wrong being done, by making them fear the consequences of speaking out. This is the blueprint of fascism. YOU and millions like you are the targets. The maccarthyites would like you to believe that your Americanism depends on your approval of what they do. But it doesn't!

Since maccarthyism makes all of us the target, we must defend ourselves. The best way to do that is to speak up. Don't be silent because you are afraid you'll be called a name. There is nothing finer than to be called democrat (with a small "d")—and that's what you are when you help in the job of shaping laws and policies that are in the best interests of the majority of the people.

McCarthyism, the major anti-democratic force in America demands your silence.

Democracy demands that you speak up and decide the issues on the facts and on their merit—not on the basis of rumors and name-calling.

Democracy demands the defeat of McCarthyism.

McCarthyism is thought control.

Democracy is freedom.

The choice is yours!

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MACY ACTS LIKE TOUGH JUDGE TO WORKER CALLED TO JURY DUTY

Margaret Ettman was on jury duty, but Macy's acted like a tough judge and hit her with a heavy fine.

On December 31st Margaret was headed for a lay-off until the employment office told her that they had a White Sale job for her. She said she was delighted and would take the job—but what should she do since she had been called for jury duty.

The employment office interviewer simply told her to report for jury duty and to clock in on her return and then come see her.

Two weeks later, with her duty as a citizen done, Margaret came back and started searching for her time card. When she gave up the hunt she went to the employment office, where she was told that she had been laid-off on December 31!

Administrator Mabel Murther took the fight to the Labor Relations office. She argued that had Margaret known that the choice

was jury duty or an immediate lay-off she would have tried to be excused from the jury duty.

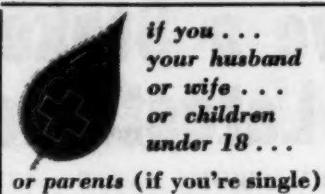
As a result of her arguments, Macy's agreed to pay Margaret for the two weeks she had spent on jury duty and changed her lay-off date from December 31 to January 16. The change in date made the difference between Margaret being a Christmas hire and a Union member with recall rights to her job.

Withdrawal

A short while after Local 1-S had asked an impartial arbitrator to rule on the justness of the discharge of Harry Alberti he requested that the Union withdraw the case.

While he vigorously condemned the company's action against him, he also said that he had no desire to return to work for Macy's even if his arbitration was won.

Though the officers of Local 1-S were confident of a favorable decision in the case, they were left without a choice and agreed to the withdrawal.



**NEED BLOOD
FROM THE BLOOD BANK**
all you have to do is
CALL WA 4-4540

And Rest Assured That
Local 1-S Will Do the Rest

HEALTH PLAN NOTE

If you plan to take a leave of absence (including military leave) for more than 30 days or if you leave the store and wish to continue your Health Plan coverage on a direct payment basis YOU MUST see the Local 1-S Health Plan Consultant at the Union office within 30 days from the end of the month in which you leave the store.

If you, or a member of your family covered by the Health Plan, enters the hospital you MUST call on the Union office for claim forms immediately on entering or as soon as possible thereafter.

Protect yourself — protect your family — protect your benefits. Be sure to come to the Union office on time!

OFFICIAL NOTICE Divisional Meeting Schedule

This is the only official notice to be given for Divisional Meetings. Admission will be by 1953 or '54 Union cards.

An unexcused absence will be

GROUP	DATE	TIME	PLACE
{ Adv-Display (PT) B. Stand'ds	Mon. Feb. 15	4:30	Auditorium
{ Adv-Display (FT) B. Stand'ds	Mon. Feb. 15	6:30	Auditorium
Receiving	Tues. Feb. 16	6:30	Auditorium**
9 Floor	Wed. Feb. 17	6:30	Auditorium
Food Dept. (PT)	Wed. Feb. 17	4:45	Conference
Food Dept. (FT)	Wed. Feb. 17	7:15	Conference
6 Floor (PT)	Fri. Feb. 19	5:00	Auditorium
6 Floor (FT)	Fri. Feb. 19	6:45	Auditorium
Controllers	Wed. Feb. 24	6:30	Auditorium
3 Floor (PT)	Fri. Feb. 26	5:00	Auditorium
3 Floor (FT)	Fri. Feb. 26	6:45	Auditorium
2 Floor (PT)	Tues. Mar. 2	5:00	Auditorium
2 Floor (FT)	Tues. Mar. 2	6:45	Auditorium
Flatbush	Tues. Mar. 2	6:45	Astor
7 Floor (PT)	Fri. Mar. 5	5:00	Auditorium
7 Floor (FT)	Fri. Mar. 5	6:45	Auditorium
Parkchester	Mon. Mar. 8	6:15	Chester House
Packing	Tues. Mar. 9	6:45	Auditorium
ASD (PT)	Wed. Mar. 10	4:30	Auditorium
ASD (FT)	Wed. Mar. 10	6:30	Auditorium

**At Union office, 290 7th Avenue (Between 26 and 27 Streets.)

***Combined PT-FT, meeting to elect Executive Board member.

TO THE EDITOR

HEARTFELT THANKS

I am taking the opportunity through the medium of our Local 1-S NEWS to express my heartfelt thanks to my many friends and co-workers in Parkchester, who during my recent illness made daily phone calls and sent me beautiful cards—also to our Welfare Board for the nice gift.

What a wonderful feeling it is to know you are missed by so many nice people—and it is a pleasure to know and work among them.

Fraternally yours,
Lillian Branca, P12

60 DAY AUTOMATIC

Administrator Murther's aid was most appreciated, and the most efficient manner in which she traced my 60 day automatic duly noted, for which my thanks are duly extended.

On looking up the record of money I received, and the dates I find it is correct. It is the first increase in pay that I received without noticing that it was an increase.

With best wishes and hoping I will be recalled soon,

Sincerely,
Helen MacDonald

BONUS THANKS

Thank you very much for your efforts in getting the X-mas bonus for me.

I want you to know that I appreciate the Union and the work that went in to getting it for me.

Thank you again,

Sincerely,
Leontine Rovner, 18 Dept.

FOR EVERYTHING

I want to thank Local 1-S for everything you did to win my recent case.

I cannot begin to express how



GIFTS FOR EXECUTIVES

Come to any department on any floor in the store and you will find someone collecting for gifts—and it is always (except on rare occasions) for some silly purpose.

Nevertheless, all are contributing generously—including those who can ill-afford it, but are too proud to say so.

Gifts for executives are more costly. The higher the rank the bigger the stake. Peculiarly, the recipients are not always fine people—but on the contrary they are quite often bad-mannered, cruel and unfair to their subordinates. Among the solicitors are men and women who carry a flower and a little authority and are so often found on the wrong side of the fence. And also old timers who came to Macy's way back before the Union even came into being. They got so used to crawling that they can't get out of the habit.

Macy is officially opposed to (but tacitly approves) the gift collecting. I am reminded of a letter written by high executives demanding that no salespeople accept presents from customers. Fine and dandy! It is surely below the dignity of a worker to accept tips. But why not a similar letter addressed to executives in the same strong language?

I hope our people will stop such goings on that humiliate all of us. We have nothing and nobody to be afraid of. We are members of a free Union and are proud citizens of a great democracy.

Mark Yanis, 67 Dept.

PRAISE

I wish to take this opportunity to praise and thank the officers of Local 1-S for the excellent Health Plan the members of 1-S now have. My recent accident has made me realize what a wonderful plan it is. My hospital bill was taken care of and most of my doctor's bill. I had paid for Blue Cross for many years and never had to avail myself of it. The members cannot fully appreciate this plan until it comes to their assistance.

Again thanking the officers for their wonderful foresightedness for the good and welfare of the membership

Very sincerely yours,
Clara A. MacDonald, W13

PROMPT

I wish to express my deep appreciation for the wonderful and prompt assistance our Health Plan was to me during my recent hospitalization.

Thank you again,
Elisabeth R. Boswell, MCU

APPRECIATION

I deeply appreciate all that the Union has done for me and wish to thank you for a job well done.

How many people realize how important it is to have a strong union!

Many thanks again,
Faithfully,
Anne Rosen, 53 Dept.

The members of the Local 1-S Federal Credit Union, at their last meeting, re-elected for one year terms of office the following Directors:

Mary Delfino, Dorothy Gilmore, Sam Kovenetsky, Evelyn Snyder, Max Strick and Jack Toucey.

Directors re-elected for two year terms of office were Katherine Arndt and Agnes Wagner.

Also re-elected for a one year term on the Supervisory Committee was Frank Milza.

Progress reports by Credit Union President Sam Kovenetsky, Treasurer Jack Schultz, Supervisors

Committee Chairman Frank Milza and Credit Committee Chairman Charles Boyd all stressed the sound financial health of the Credit Union and called for still more members as a means of improving its services.

The Credit Union opened 1953 with a "1 for 1" drive, in which they urge every member to get at least one new member to enjoy the high 3% interest rate on savings and the convenient services of this cooperative "bank."

The Local 1-S Federal Credit Union is chartered and supervised by the U. S. government.

PERSONALS

FOR SALE—Sohmer upright piano. Very reasonable. Phone SC 4-3649 after 7 P.M.

FOR SALE—Violin and bow made by Antonius Stradivarius. "Cremonensis, facubat Anno 16" printed inside of violin over 100 years old and in excellent condition. Will sell for \$65. LU 9-8177 from 6:30 P.M.

FOR RENT—Modern, newly decorated studio with adjoining bath for business gentleman. 790 Riverside Dr. (157 St.), opposite 5th Ave. bus and 7th Ave. subway. AU 6-5396 after 7:30, all day Sunday.

WANTED—2 or 2½ rooms, Man. preferred, to \$65. SA 7-5268 after 7 P.M.

MEDICAL PLAN—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

BLOOD BANK—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

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